

# The GREYWOLF HOWL

Vol. II Issue VI

The Operation New Dawn Edition

April 30, 2011

## ‘Saber’ Squadron Provides Mechanic and Driver Training

**2nd Lt. Daniel Elmblad  
6th Sqdn., 9th Cav.  
Regt.**

On April 17, 6th ‘Saber’ Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, United States Division – Center continued its mission of advising and assisting its Iraqi Partners. Specifically, mechanics from Comanche Troop and Dominator Company (D Forward Support Company) provided a basic mechanic and driver’s training course to the mechanics and drivers of the 4th Federal Police

The training covered basic vehicle maintenance, before and after mission vehicle maintenance inspections, basic driving skills, and down-vehicle

recovery drills. Although some of these topics were new to the mechanics and drivers of the 4th Federal Police, some of the instruction was a refresher on topics they had previously learned.

“These guys know what they are doing, but we are able to point out some new techniques and areas to look for when they are doing their vehicle maintenance,” said Spc. Dillon Warren, a mechanic with C Troop, 6th Sqdn., 9th Cav. Regt. 2nd AAB, 1st Inf. Div., USD-C, a native of College Station, Texas.

This driver’s training program is a part of Saber Squadron’s overall effort to enhance the capabilities of their Iraqi partners, the 4th Federal Police.

“The 4th FP recognizes the need for training in the technical field, and they are reaching out to gain as much assistance while we are still here,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Richard Burnette, the command sergeant major of 6th Sqdn., 9th Cav. Regt. 2nd AAB, 1st Inf. Div., USD-C, a native of Anderson, S.C.



Photo by 2nd Lt. Daniel Elmblad  
Spc. Dillon Warren a native of College Station, Texas, inspects underneath a humvee with a mechanic from the 4th Federal Police.

Thus far in the three months they have been deployed, the Soldiers of Saber Squadron have reached out to their Iraqi partners by providing training in such areas as Combat Lifesaver, generator maintenance, map reading, welding instruction, and other areas that are essential to provide security to their fellow Iraqis.

However, the training that the Soldiers of Saber Squadron provide can only go so far.

“Most of their issues during the training didn’t come from a lack of

understanding, but rather a lack of supply in the necessary parts to maintain the vehicles is their biggest problem right now,” said Spc. Warren.

Regardless of the issue, Saber Squadron will continue to offer their technical expertise to the 4th Federal Police. Even though there may be a shortage of equipment or parts, the advice that the Soldiers provide now will be beneficial as Iraqis continue to build their logistical capabilities.



Photo by 2nd Lt. Daniel Elmblad  
Sgt. Jason Beauregard a native of Norwich, Conn., watches as a mechanic of the 4th Federal Police cleans an air filter.

# Soldiers help children pass the test

**2nd Lt. Anna Schenk**  
**215th Bde. Support Bn.**

Soldiers from 215th Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division started tutoring at Bel Aire Elementary School this April. This tutorial program helps students at the school prepare for the standardized Texas Assessment of Skills and Knowledge test, or TASK. Tutors mentor third and fourth grade students in mathematics twice a week, with approximately 20 students present for each session.

The Soldiers enjoy working with the students; it not only helps them improve their educational foundation in math, but it also allows the pupils to see the military involved in the community which gives them a different view of the dynamics of a Soldier.

“This opportunity to go out in the community to serve the people in such a special way is one that is not afforded all the time, I eagerly volunteered for this program.” said Sgt. Alan Walker, one of the Soldiers that volunteered.

Soldier-tutors start the day after arriving at the Bel Aire Elementary’s front desk at 7 a.m., to sign in. Once everyone is signed in, the 215th BSB Soldiers pick up math cards and walk through the halls and quiz students in the hallways as they await the bell to go into their first class.

“This is the most enjoyable moment as the students are very active in the morning and they love to see us in the hall. The energy here is indescribable.” said Spc. Dominic Hennis, another tutor.

When the bell rings at 7:30 a.m., the Soldiers proceed to the cafeteria and



Photo by 2nd Lt. Anna Schenk

Sgt. Alan Walker, Spc. Dominic Hennis, Pfc. Arabian Lawson and Spc. Shawn Brewer from the 215th Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, wait outside the Bel Aire Elementary School in Killeen, Texas, for the students to arrive.

wait for the students to arrive. Normally, about eighteen to twenty-two students are present at any given session, but this number is subject to change as more students are identified as needing additional help with mathematics. The students show up with either an orange or blue folder in hand which signifies if they belong to third or fourth grade.

Soldiers assist students in completing worksheets on topics such as rounding, decimals, basic mathematical functions, word problems, graphs, etc. Questions received from the students vary greatly as each student has their own areas of difficulty.

The sessions usually end around 8 a.m., and the students then attend their regularly scheduled classes. Once all the students have cleared the cafeteria, the Soldiers return to the front desk and sign out. The tutor program is scheduled to end on April 26, shortly before the students are required to test.



Photo by 2nd Lt. Anna Schenk

Sgt. Alan Walker from Hamilton, Ohio, tutors a third grader in math at Bel Aire Elementary School in Killeen, Texas.



# Council to discuss security in southern Iraq

**2nd Lt. Christopher Molaro**  
2nd Bn., 82nd FA Regt.

The clock is ticking. As the presence of U.S. Forces scales back, Iraqi Security Forces assume their independent role in national security. As Advise and Assist Brigades maneuver south toward Kuwait, southern Iraq will rely solely on ISF to ensure stability. The threat of insurgent attacks poses a risk not only to U.S. Soldiers, but to the ISF and civilians as well.

Lt. Col. Robert Wright, Commander of Task Force 2nd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division from Fort Hood, Texas, operates in the Muthanna and Dhi Qar provinces of southern Iraq. Wright and his Iraqi partners have taken proactive measures to mitigate the possi-

bility of increased violence and will host a meeting in late April to gain support for the security effort.

Nine Iraqi Police commanders and Iraqi Army general officers from both provinces have been invited, all of whom have an enormous amount of influence in the areas their security forces operate.

The idea is to get all the Iraqi leaders in one room, on one page, working for one goal – a safer and more secure Iraq.

“This is a historical council. It is our understanding that nothing like it has taken place before, at least to this scale and in this part of Iraq. We are confident it will make Iraq a safer place and will empower the Iraqi security forces in protecting their country,” said Maj. Aaron Leonard, operations officer for Task Force 2nd Bn., 82nd FA Regt., 3rd



Photo by 2nd Lt. Christopher Molaro

Lt. Col. Robert Wright sits down with Brig. Gen. Hamid, commander of the 39th Iraqi Army Brigade to speak about security issues and the upcoming Highway Security Council which Brig. Gen. Hamid will be attending.

AAB, 1st Cav. Div.

Leonard is in charge of working with the Iraqis in planning the logistics for the council. If successful, the council will meet regularly, building upon what it established in previous meetings.

In less than a year, American forces are scheduled to leave Iraq. This council is a larger step for-

ward in a peaceful transition of sovereignty to the people of Iraq. The intent is that this series of security meetings will coordinate security efforts, and therefore create a safer atmosphere for U.S. forces to depart while Iraqi forces take complete control of their nation.



# Support platoon lives up to battalion motto “Steadfast and Vigilant”

**1st Lt. Chris Prange**  
**3rd Bde. Special Troops Bn.**

3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division underwent changes upon return from Mosul in 2009.

With the addition of an engineer company to their ranks, they no longer just support enablers, or stationary assets that support the brigade’s communications and intelligence infrastructure, they now support combat patrols as well.

While it was not a radical shift in their mission, it did present new challenges, especially for the battalion’s support platoon.

Most of the challenges had to do with manpower, equipment and training, but the Ghost Platoon took it all in stride, finding idea after idea to get the mission accomplished.

The platoon conducted logistical support for unstabilized gunnery for three weeks with only one noncommissioned officer and a pair of Soldiers. A two-week field training exercise tested their ability to conduct 24-hour operations around mission schedules and a National Training Center rotation tested their ability to handle stress.

At the time, the platoon included a logistics officer, fuelers, a truck driver and a welder.

“I expected to be conducting logistic patrols or dealing with supply issues for the battalion,” said the platoon leader, 2nd Lt. Ryan Towson. “I didn’t expect to be the only logistical officer in the entire battalion. It was a little intimidating at first.”

In the end, their training was successful. They had the personnel to accomplish a diverse mission set and they were trained on the proper method to accomplish tasks. Now they were prepared to handle any task thrown at them.

“All of Towson’s Soldiers continued to impress me with their ability to think outside the box. They were very good at adapting to any situation. Support Platoon is always one element we can count on,” said Capt. Matthew Cyr, the company commander.

With the BSTB serving as the command and control element for Contingency Operating Base Adder’s base defense, the platoon has come to serve as the utility experts. Anti-Terrorism / Force Protection is their official job title. The “Project Guys” is the nickname they have acquired from other Soldiers.

No matter what you call them, if they have learned one thing in the month since the transfer of authority, they know each day is going to bring new surprises.

“At first it seemed a daunting task,” Towson said. “I didn’t even know what AFTP (Anti-Terrorism / Force Protection)



Photo by 2nd Lt. Ryan Towson

Spc. Steven Baldwin is the only transportation specialist in the platoon. Here, he drives the forklift to emplace barriers around COB Adder.

meant. I was just told I would be doing it.”

Their daily mission set can be described as supporting and improving the systems already in place for base defense; They refuel the generator supporting the camera towers that cover every inch of the fence line and beyond; emplace barriers and concertina wire at key positions on the perimeter and at the gates; conduct diagnostics on the sensors and cameras at the guard towers; and they emplace trip flares along all twenty-six miles of fence around the COB.

When asked about his mission and how his Soldiers are handling it, Towson shrugged.

“It’s interesting because there are so many different projects. One day it’s one thing at the entry control point and the next day it’s a completely different thing on the perimeter or on the (guard) towers. It’s a lot of projects or jobs that present different circumstances or problems. It’s not anything that’s branch specific, but it’s the grey matter in between what we all do. It’s kind of fun trying to figure it all out.”

At the end of their day, they return to their containerized housing units like the rest of us knowing they may be called out on a moment’s notice because of a generator breaking down.

When talking about his Support Platoon, Cyr has no problem telling anyone just how hard his Soldiers work.

“There is not a task given that they will not find a way to get it accomplished. When I ask for the most (difficult) tasks, Towson and his Soldiers always seem to figure it out. Before I can ask for an update, nine times out of ten, the report is already in my hand and complete.” said Cyr.



# GREYWOLF WARRIOR OF THE WEEK

**Pfc. Kyle Welch**  
**C Co., 3rd Bn. 8th Cav. Regt.**  
**Plant City, Fla.**

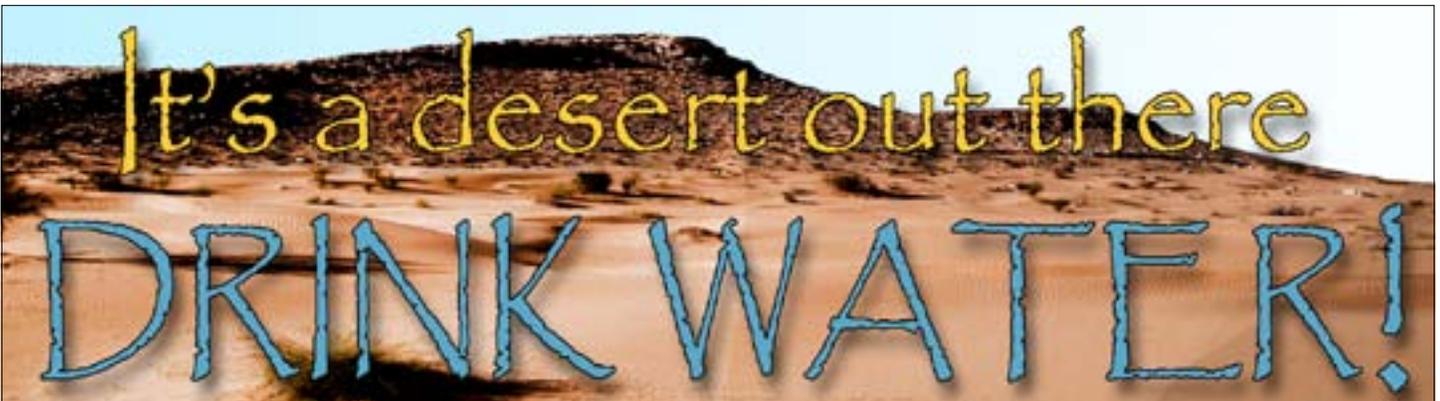


Pfc. Welch works at the Maysan Operation Center (MAOC) located on Joint Security Station Sparrowhawk. The MAOC is the primary link between the battalion and 10th Iraqi Army Division operations officers. While working at the MAOC, he has been responsible for coordinating with interpreters to ensure the proper translation of more than 30 Iraqi Army operation summaries prior to the distribution to the stability transition team which includes several field grade officers. He has displayed exceptional cultural awareness and professionalism while working alongside the Iraqi Army officers and interpreters. He submits all the patrol requests passed down from the battalion and companies to the 10th IA Division operations officer, allowing every unit within the battalion to conduct patrols with IA route clearance. He coordinates with the battalion operations officer and the 10th IA Division during and after indirect fire by verifying and passing up point of impact/point of origin grids and has spearheaded both the day and night shift in the MAOC on several occasions. Welch is a combat multiplier who has worked well beyond his shift and duty scope to confirm the MAOC is complete with all assigned tasks and to ensure that the Warhorse Battalion maintains situational awareness with its partners in the 10th IA Division. His tireless efforts and dedication to duty reflects great credit upon himself, the Warhorse Battalion and the GREYWOLF Brigade.



**Spc. Braden Jensen**  
**B Btry., TF 2nd Bn., 82nd FA Regt.**  
**Tooele, Utah**

Spc. Jensen was tasked to get the unit's Raven unmanned aerial vehicle into operation to support the battery's counter improvised explosive device efforts along a main supply route. He took the task and ran with it, coordinating with field service representatives to ensure he had the proper software, installing the most up to date maps, and working with the brigade aviation element to establish Raven restricted operating zones. While working to establish Raven capabilities, Jensen became a subject matter expert and was sought out by other Raven operators for his knowledge and assistance. His hard work and initiative paid off; while conducting a CIED patrol, he became the first Raven operator in Task Force 2nd Bn. 82nd FA Regt. to fly the unmanned aerial vehicle during Operation New Dawn. He flew the Raven for approximately 70 minutes and gave the patrol an added resource during their CIED mission. Jensen's hard work has enhanced B Btry., TF 2-82s ability to conduct future CIED and counter indirect fire missions in support of the GREYWOLF mission.



# New generation of Soldiers support STT

**Maj. William Mott**  
**STT, 1st Bn., 12th Cav. Regt.**

Most of us are familiar with the local national interpreters, however there is a new generation of Soldiers born from Operation Iraqi Freedom, and developed into combat multipliers for Operation New Dawn; U.S. Soldier interpreters under the military occupational specialty O-9L Linguist here in Basrah, Iraq.

They are referred to as “oh-nine-leemahs,” Arabic speaking Americans who have joined the U.S. military to serve as linguists.

Spc. Ali Gamah, originally from Iraq and Spc. Ehab Amer, from Egypt, are two examples of this new breed of Soldiers and are deployed with Stability Transition Teams (STT) within 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division.

“I came into my mission at the Basrah Operations Center (BaOC) with all the concerns and fears that I have as an American Soldier born and raised in Basrah,” said Gamah.

Initially, he thought translating his native language into English would be an easy job but quickly realized his tasks were more extensive. From coordinating convoys without violating operational security to coordinating with Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) for missions with U.S. forces, his job is not easy.

The BaOC conducts 24-hour operations. The five-person team



Photo by Maj. William Mott

Maj. Nelson Cruz, Spc. Ali Gamah and SSG Claudio Barzan pose in front of an Iraqi Army vehicle during one of their advise and assist missions with the 14th Iraqi Army.

manages the BaOC convoys to accomplish counter indirect fire patrols, humanitarian aid missions, Provincial Reconstruction Team movements, ISF convoys and training tasks.

Gamah has been performing this pivotal job since February with Spc. Ehab Amer. Amer, who calls Alaska home, joined the STT by way of Fort Irwin, Calif.

Amer said he is impressed with the level of responsibility he has in translating information for U.S. and Iraqi officers concerning military intelligence.

“Spc. Gamah and I have developed a high level of cooperation with the

entire Iraqi staff, and they readily share concerns they get from the Iraqi ground forces,” said Amer.

He added that the rapport they have built allows them to expedite mission changes and urgent messages to quickly redirect the Iraqi army or police escorts for U.S. convoys.

Two non-commissioned officers and Maj. Luis Cruz, the BaOC STT leader, round out the five-person team.

Cruz considers it a unique career opportunity to work with the linguists.

“They are both proud to be nation builders for the new Iraq,” said Cruz.

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*qualities of every Soldier*  
*Army Chief of Staff Gen. Martin E. Dempsey*

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Col. Douglas Crissman

**Brigade Command Sgt. Maj.**  
Command Sgt. Maj. Ronnie Kelley

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U.S. Army photo

Pvt. Cruz and Pfc. Whitesides in front of the Maysan Training Center sign.

## The Best Kept Secret on COS Garry Owen

**1st Lt. Louis Garcia**  
**3d Bn., 8th Cav. Regt.**

The Maysan Training Center is tucked away in a little corner of Contingency Operating Station Garry Owen and few Soldiers know of its existence, and fewer know the vital mission conducted there. The Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) trains local residents of Amarah in a variety of skills, from farming to law enforcement. The security of the PRT and Maysan Training Center is the responsibility of H Company "Hellhounds", 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division.

The Maysan Training Center is located just outside the fence of COS Garry Owen. There is an unmarked door along the perimeter wall that opens up to a colorful world with a greenhouse and classrooms. Hellhound Soldiers affectionately refer to the entrance as "Narnia", because on one side of the

wall is a gray dull combat environment and on the opposite side are the colorful walls and smiling faces of the Maysan Training Center.

Hellhound Soldiers on duty interact daily with local residents from Amarah, using the Soldiers professionalism to support the advise and assist mission in southern Iraq. Judging by the feedback from the PRT, Hellhound Soldiers are getting the job done and reflecting a positive image of the Warhorse Battalion.



U.S. Army photo

Pvt. Cruz and Pfc. Whitesides in front of the Maysan Training Center sign.